NASA Project Management Challenge 2009

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE 2009

Sixth Annual NASA Project Management Seminar

ABSTRACT AND BIOGRAPHY

Implementing the New Joint Cost and Schedule Confidence Policy at NASA

This presentation reviews the rational for the agency's policy to budget projects with a 70 percent probability (confidence level) of being able to successfully complete projects at or below a given cost estimate. The presenter will also explain the new joint cost and schedule confidence level policy within NPD 1000.5, detail a number of implementation challenges, and a propose way forward. The presenter will discuss process changes and describe the range of analytic methods and tools available to help projects comply with the new policy.

Thomas Coonce
Director of the Cost Analysis Division
NASA Headquarters

Mr. Coonce is NASA's Director of the Cost Analysis Division within the office of Program Analysis and Evaluation. He is responsible for establishing cost estimating policies, training NASA personnel to develop credible cost and schedule estimates, and collecting and disseminating NASA historical project cost, technical and schedule data. He and his staff also develop cost estimates and analyses for other NASA organizations to support strategic decisions and to ensure programs and projects are realistically resourced.

Prior to joining NASA, Mr. Coonce served as a Supervisory Operations Research Analyst with DoD's Cost Analysis Improvement Group (CAIG) within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. While there, he developed and assisted in the development of life cycle cost estimates of several Major Defense Acquisition Programs (MDAPs). He also led an effort to re-engineer the operation the Contractor Cost Data Report System – the Department's main mechanism to collect historical cost data.

Prior to joining the CAIG, Mr. Coonce served as a cost analyst and software development manager with three consulting firms and the U.S. General Accounting Office. He has over 34 years experience developing cost estimates and cost and technical databases.